

Hello, Members of the Committee, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to speak today.

My name is Minerva Maldonado. I am currently a second year student at Naugatuck Valley Community College. As an active student on campus, I know that these budget cuts will not only affect me but prospective students as well. NVCC has much to offer and every student should have access to attend. Three of my siblings and I attend the college; it's completely affordable and close to home. I know that if the proposed budget passes, tuition prices will increase and most students simply can't afford to pay any additional tuition. Many students come to community colleges because it's a great, quality education for a good, affordable price.

Currently, funding at Naugatuck Valley Community College allows students to experience all that college has to offer. Clubs run a variety of trips, events and activities. Thanks to this type of funding, I've been able to attend many college trips which allow me to learn outside the classroom, be exposed to cultural events and expand my horizons. Also, there are other areas on campus such as The Academic Center of Excellence and the Women's Center that offer amazing services to the students. If the budget gets reduced, these services may be in jeopardy and students will suffer because we need services to support our academic growth and advancement. As an active student at the college, I know that NVCC has so much to offer and it has helped me in so many ways. If the budget is reduced, so many students will be deprived of the academic enriching opportunities I received. I thank you for your time and ask that you reconsider making any cuts to the budgets of community colleges. Thank you.